

# Verification of Russian arms arriving in Myanmar on January 24, 2022



## Executive Summary

Open source reporting confirms that Russian-made BRDM-2M 4X4 armoured vehicles were delivered to Thilawa Port in Yangon, Myanmar on January 24, 2022.

Myanmar Witness has tracked the route of the vessel as it left Vladivostok, Russia and arrived in the port just south of Yangon.

Satellite imagery confirms the location and time of the vessel's presence, and matches images obtained by Myanmar Witness showing the vehicles at the port.

The vehicles have been used since the coup by Myanmar's Army in various locations throughout Myanmar as security and transport assets.

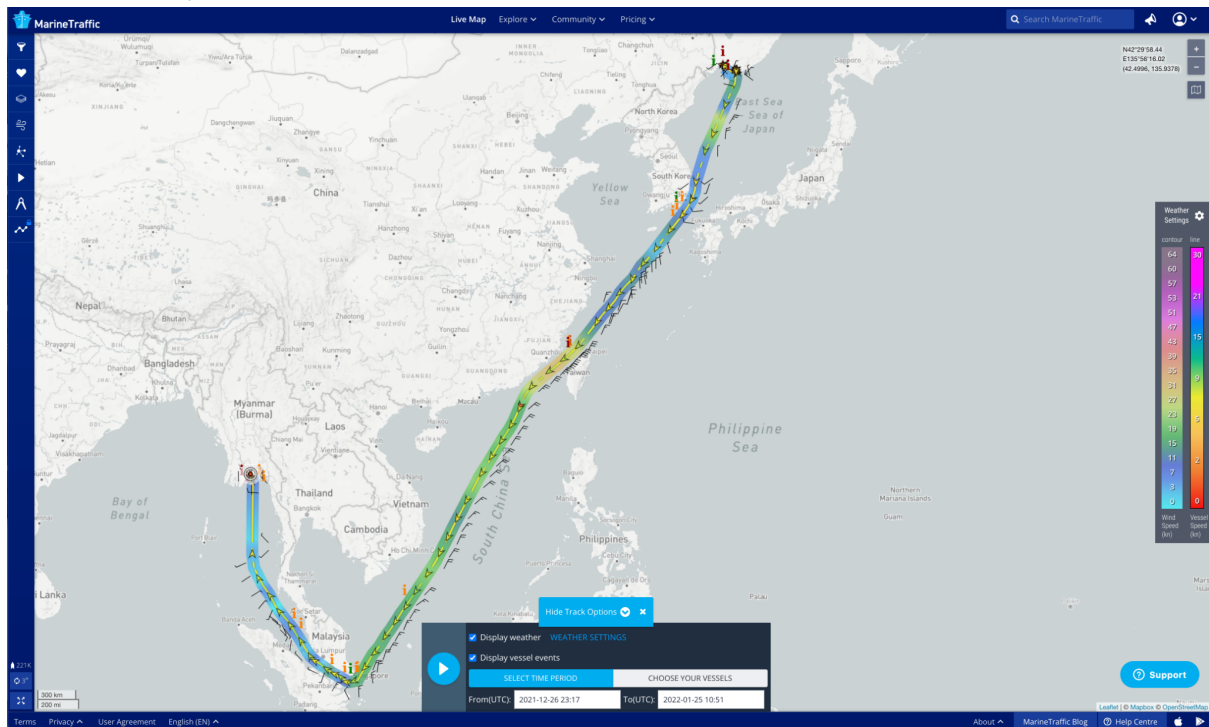
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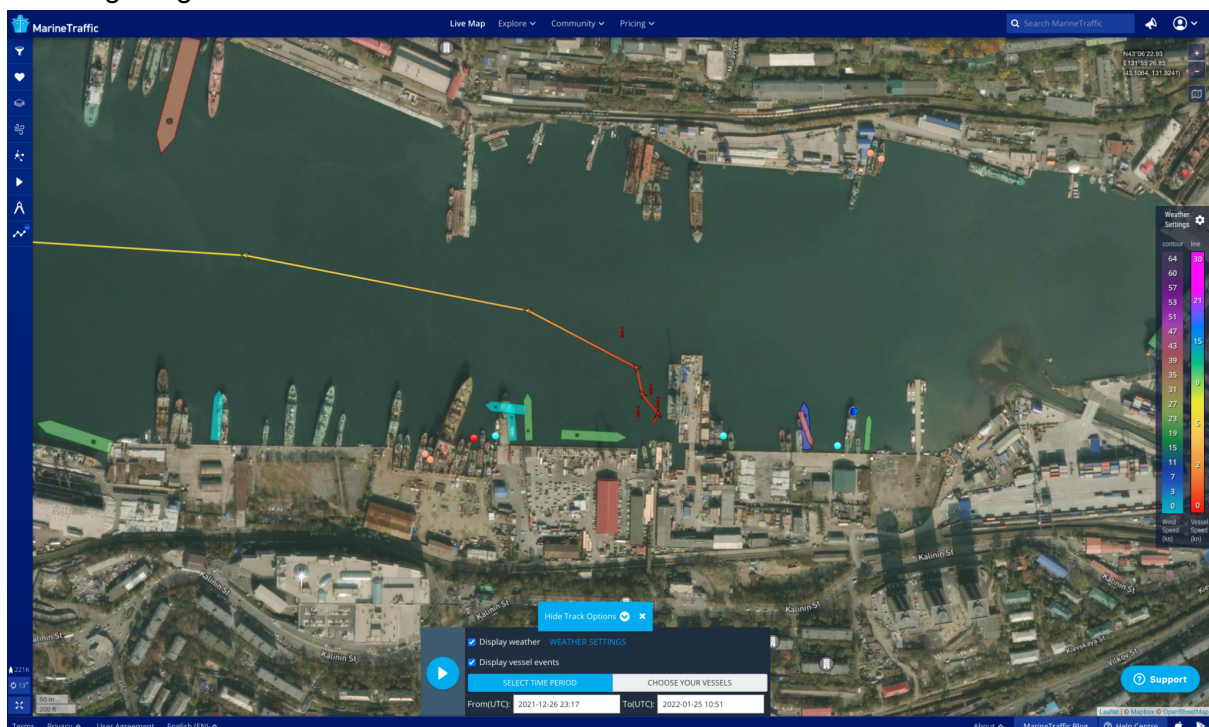
## Verification of route from Russia to Myanmar

The General Cargo vessel [CAPTAIN YAKUBOVICH](#) (IMO: 8318740) left the port of Vladivostok, Russia, where it was docked between December 19 and December 28, 2021.

The following screenshot from Marine Traffic shows the route the vessel took between Russia and Myanmar.



The vessel was docked at this location 43.105170, 131.923029, which can be seen in the following image.

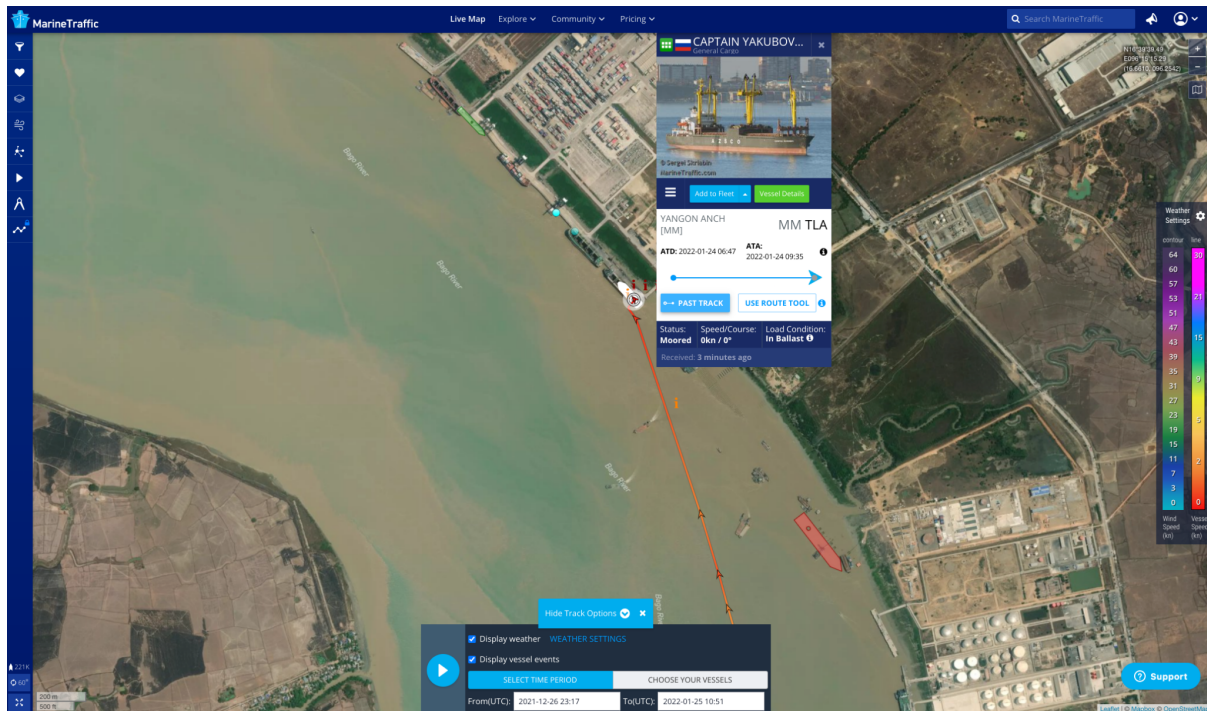




## Arrival in Yangon

The CAPTAIN YAKUBOVICH arrived in Yangon on January 24, 2022 at 03:13 UTC time before docking at the Thilawa port (location: 16.662812, 96.251744). The time and location was confirmed through both [Marine Traffic](#) and [Fleetmon](#).

The location of the vessel was tracked via the ship's AIS and final location and can be seen arriving in Yangon, Myanmar below.



## Verification of imagery

Images sent to Myanmar Witness and subsequently uploaded to social media show vehicles being unloaded from a vessel in the port of Myanmar, allegedly from January 24. These images can be seen below.





Geolocation and analysis of the images indicates it is indeed the CAPTAIN YAKUBOVICH, due to the features of the vessel, writing on the side, and the match with the ship's transponder data.





The location of the vessel (16.662812, 96.251744) can also be seen on satellite imagery from [Planet Labs](#).





## Information on the vessel

General Cargo vessel [CAPTAIN YAKUBOVICH](#) is managed by Vladivostok-based [AZIA Shipping Company](#) and has a certificate to carry dangerous goods.

The screenshot below indicates the managing shipping company and its certificates, seen [here](#).

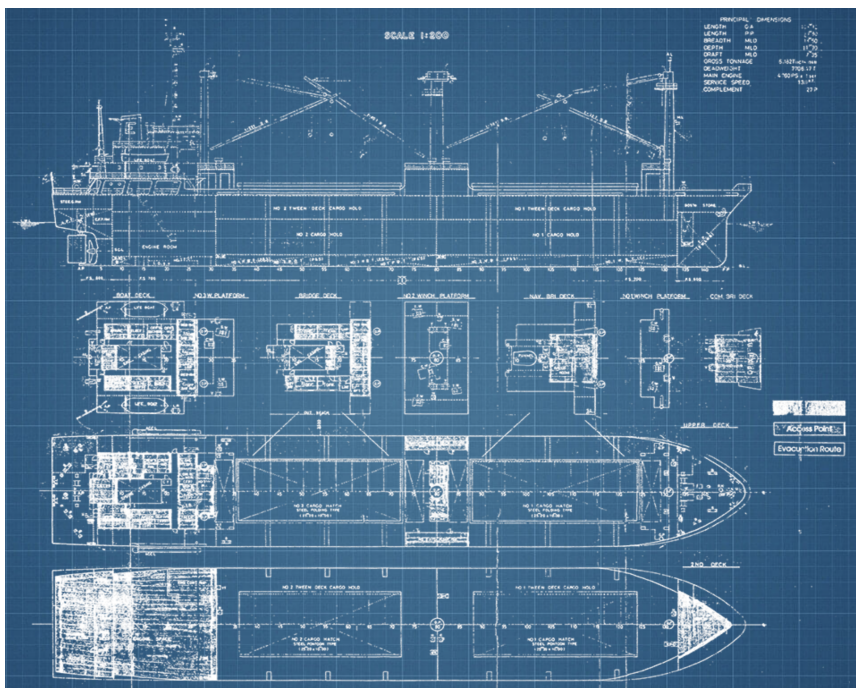
### Manager

Manager	AZIA Shipping Company	IMO	5766958
Address	Russia, 690090 Vladivostok, ul. Posyetskaya, 29	Email	mechanic@aziaship.com;azia@aziaship.com;captain@aziaship.com
Company Website			

### Certificates

E-cert	Certificate title	Code	Date of issue	Expiry date	Postponement	Status
	International certificate on antifouling systems	AFS	19.03.2019			
	International ballast water management certificate	BWMC	19.03.2019	17.04.2024		DUE
	Certificate of fitness of the ship for the carriage of dangerous goods	DG	19.03.2019	17.04.2024		DUE
	Document of compliance with the special requirements for ship carrying dangerous goods	DGB-19	19.03.2019	17.04.2024		DUE
	Certificate of fitness of the ship for the carriage of bulk cargoes	FB	19.03.2019	17.04.2024		DUE
	Supplement to the Certificate of fitness of the ship for the carriage of bulk cargoes	FBS	19.03.2019	17.04.2024		DUE

The vessel's outline can be identified from the [company's Russian website](#) matching the features seen in the satellite imagery and images from the port.





## Verification of cargo seen

The images obtained by Myanmar Witness show the vessel at the port in Yangon, Myanmar, and indicate a number of vehicles that appear to be unloaded from the vessel. Some of the vehicles being unloaded are BRDM-2M armoured reconnaissance/patrol vehicles. One of the images (seen below) shows the vehicles quite clearly.

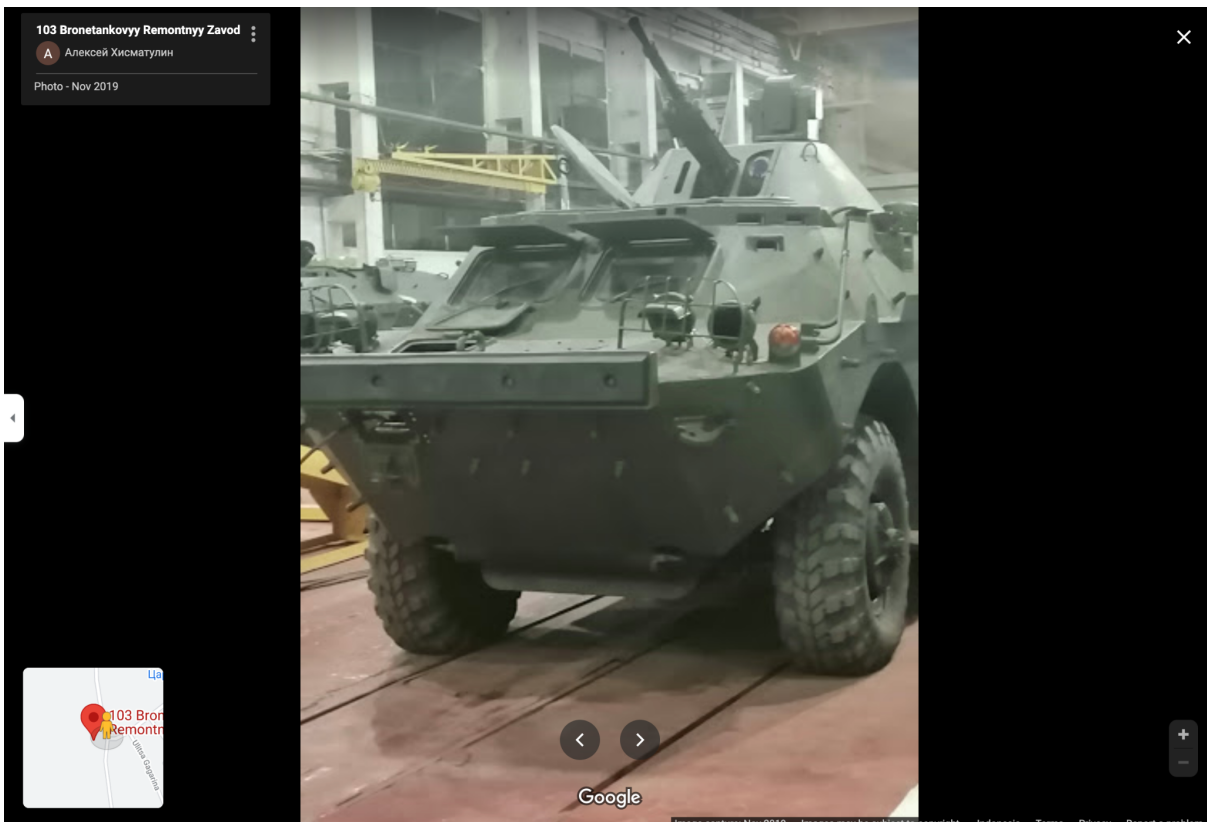


Images publicly available online below show other unrelated views of the BRDM. These images were used as reference points to identify the vehicle.



The BRDM-2M is an improved version of the Soviet BRDM-2 vehicle. The upgrades are allegedly done in the [AOA 103 Armored Repair Plant in Atamanovka \(Zabaikalsky Krai\)](#).

The [AOA 103 Armored Repair Plant](#) is regularly provided contracts for parts for tanks and other armoured vehicles, and is located in Atamanovka, Russia, [here](#). An [image linked to this plant's Google Maps page](#) in November 2019 shows a BRDM-2M.



According to the [SIPRI Arms Trade Registers](#) a deal for an undisclosed number of BRDM-2Ms was reached in 2019 between Russia and Myanmar. Those were to be upgraded to the BRDM-2M version before export.

A screenshot of the SIPRI Arms Trade Register for registered arms trades from Russia to Myanmar can be seen below.

Supplier/ recipient (R)	ordered	No. designation	Weapon description	Year(s) of order	Year of delivery	of delivered	No. Comments
Russia							
R: Myanmar	(2000)	Jela-1	Portable SAM	(2000)	2004-2014	(2000)	Incl for MADV AD systems produced in Myanmar
	10	MiG-29	Fighter aircraft	2001	2001-2002	(10)	\$130 m deal (incl 30% on delivery + 70% spread over 10 years); MiG-29B-12 version; incl 2 MiG-29UB
	(30)	R-27R/T	BVRAAM	2001	2002	(30)	For MiG-29 combat aircraft; possibly R-27E (AA-10C) version
	(60)	R-73	BVRAAM	(2001)	2001-2002	(60)	For MiG-29 combat aircraft
	(38)	2S6M Tunguska	Mobile AD system	(2004)	2004-2007	(38)	
	(600)	9M311 Trepogolnik	SAM	(2004)	2004-2007	(600)	For 2S6M Tunguska AD systems
	(100)	D-30 122mm	Towed gun	(2005)	2006	100	Probably second-hand
	1	S-125 Pechora-2M	SAM system	(2008)	2012	(1)	Second-hand S-125 rebuilt to Pechora-M
	(50)	V-601	SAM	(2008)	2012	(50)	Probably second-hand but modernized before delivery
	(10)	Mi-24P/Mi-35P	Combat helicopter	2009	2010-2015	10	Probably second-hand but modernized before delivery; Mi-35P version
	(14)	MiG-29	Fighter aircraft	2009	2011-2014	(14)	Part of \$570 m deal; incl 4 MiG-29UB version
	(6)	MiG-29S	FGA aircraft	2009	2011-2012	(6)	Part of \$570 m deal
	12	Mi-2	Light helicopter	(2010)	2010-2011	(12)	Probably second-hand but modernized before delivery
	(80)	R-27R/T	BVRAAM	(2010)	2011-2012	(80)	For MiG-29 combat aircraft
	(150)	R-73	BVRAAM	(2010)	2011-2012	(150)	For MiG-29 combat aircraft
	(75)	R-73	BVRAAM	(2015)	2017-2019	(75)	For Yak-130 trainer/combat aircraft
	(16)	RD-33	Turbofan	(2015)	2018-2019	(6)	For 16 JF-17 combat aircraft from China
	6	Yak-130	Trainer/combat ac	2015	2017	(6)	
	6	Su-30MK	FGA aircraft	(2018)			\$200 m deal; Su-30SME version
	6	Yak-130	Trainer/combat ac	(2018)	2019	6	
		BRDM-2	Reconnaissance AV	(2019)			Second-hand but modernized to BRDM-2MS before delivery
		57E6	SAM	(2020)			For Pantsyr AD systems
		96K9 Pantsyr-S1	Mobile AD system	(2020)			

The following image from [Getty Images](#) shows the BRDM-2M near Myanmar's parliament in Naypyidaw on February 1, 2021.



The vehicles have also been seen in other media pieces about Myanmar, for example in this [news package from Reuters about the coup](#).



Myanmar Witness has identified at least three other countries that have received the same vehicles as donations from Russia, indicating a level of arms-based influence. These have been seen in Serbia ([July 2019](#)) and Kirghizistan ([April 2019](#)), Tajikistan ([October 2019](#)). We do not know at this time whether Myanmar purchased these vehicles from Russia, or whether they are donated.